

PARTS 2600–2609 [RESERVED]

PART 2610—ORGANIZATION, FUNCTIONS, AND DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301 and 552, Pub. L. 95–452, 5 U.S.C. App., and Pub. L. 97–98, 7 U.S.C. 2270.

SOURCE: 60 FR 52840, Oct. 11, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

§ 2610.1 General statement.

(a) The Inspector General Act of 1978 as amended, Pub. L. 95–452, 5 U.S.C. App., establishes an Office of Inspector General (OIG) in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and transfers to it the functions, powers, and duties of offices referred to in the Department as the “Office of Investigation” and the “Office of Audit,” previously assigned to the OIG created by the Secretary’s Memoranda 1915 and 1727, dated March 23, 1977, and October 5, 1977, respectively. Under this Act, OIG is established as an independent and objective unit, headed by the Inspector General (IG), who is appointed by the President and reports to and is under the general supervision of the Secretary.

(b) The mission of OIG is to provide policy direction; to conduct, supervise, and coordinate audits and investigations of USDA programs and operations to determine efficiency and effectiveness; to prevent and detect fraud and abuse in such programs and operations; and to keep the Secretary and the Congress informed of problems and deficiencies relative to the programs and operations.

(c) The Secretary has made the following delegations of authority to the IG (7 CFR 2.33):

(1) Advise the Secretary and General Officers in the planning, development, and execution of Department policies and programs.

(2) Provide for the personal security of the Secretary and Deputy Secretary.

(3) Serve as liaison official for the Department for all audits of USDA per-

formed by the General Accounting Office.

(4) In addition to the above delegations of authority, the IG, under the general supervision of the secretary, has specific duties, responsibilities, and authorities pursuant to the Act, including:

(i) Conduct and supervise audits and investigations relating to programs and operations of the Department.

(ii) Provide leadership, coordination, and policy recommendations to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness, and to prevent and detect fraud and abuse in the administration of the Department’s program and operations.

(iii) Keep the Secretary and the congress fully and currently informed about problems and deficiencies and the necessity for and progress of corrective actions in the administration of the Department’s programs and operations.

(iv) Make such investigations and reports relating to the administration of programs and operations of the Department as are in the judgment of the IG, necessary or desirable.

(v) Review existing and proposed legislation and regulations and make recommendations to the Secretary and the Congress on the impact such laws or regulations will have on the economy and efficiency of program administration or in the prevention and detection of fraud and abuse in the programs and operations of the Department.

(vi) Have access to all records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, or other material available to the Department which relate to programs and operations for which the IG has responsibility.

(vii) Report expeditiously to the Attorney General any matter where there are reasonable grounds to believe there has been a violation of Federal criminal law.

(viii) Issue subpoenas to other than Federal agencies for the production of information, documents, reports, answers, records, accounts, papers, and other data and documentary evidence necessary in the performance of functions assigned by the Act.

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(ix) Receive and investigate complaints or information from any Department employee concerning possible violations of laws, rules or regulations, or mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or substantial and specific dangers to the public health and safety.

(x) Select, appoint, and employ necessary officers and employees in OIG in accordance with laws and regulations governing the civil service, including an Assistant Inspector General for Auditing and an Assistant Inspector General for Investigations.

(xi) Obtain services as authorized by Section 3109 of Title 5, United States Code.

(xii) Enter into contracts and other arrangements for audits, inspections, studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and private persons, and make such payments as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act to the extent and in such amounts as may be provided in an appropriation act.

(d) The IG, under the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, Pub. L. 97–98, 7 U.S.C. 2270, and pursuant to rules issued by the Secretary in 7 CFR part 1a, has the authority to:

(1) Designate employees of the Office of Inspector General who investigate alleged or suspected felony criminal violations of statutes administered by the Secretary of Agriculture or any agency of USDA, when engaged in the performance of official duties to:

(i) Execute and serve a warrant for an arrest, for the search of premises, or the seizure of evidence when issued under authority of the United States upon probable cause to believe that such a violation has been committed;

(ii) Make an arrest without a warrant for any such violation if such violation is committed or if the employee has probable cause to believe that such violation is being committed in his/her presence; and

(iii) Carry a firearm.

(2) Issue directives and take the actions prescribed by the Secretary's rules.

§ 2610.2 Headquarters organization.

(a) The OIG has a headquarters office in Washington, DC, and regional offices

throughout the United States. The headquarters office consists of the immediate office of the IG and three operational units.

(b) *Operational units.* (1) The Assistant Inspector General for Policy Development and Resources Management (AIG/PD&RM) formulates OIG policies and procedures; develops, administers and directs comprehensive programs for the management, budget, financial, personnel, systems improvement, and information activities and operations of OIG; and is responsible for OIG automated data processing (ADP) and OIG information management systems. The staff maintains OIG's directives system; Departmental Regulations and Federal Register issuances; administers the Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts, which includes requests received from the Congress, other Federal agencies, intergovernmental organizations, the news media, and the public; and provides for the administration of an OIG EEO program, including affirmative action. The immediate office of the AIG/PD&RM and two divisions carry out these functions.

(2) The Assistant Inspector General for Audit (AIG/A) carries out the OIG's domestic and foreign audit operations through a headquarters office, a Financial Management and ADP Audit Operations staff located in Kansas City, Missouri, and six regional offices shown in § 2610.3(a). The staff provides a continual audit review of ADP security throughout USDA. Auditing officials conduct operational liaison on audit matters; schedule and conduct audits; release audit reports to management; follow agency action to assure that audit reports have been properly acted upon through review of Department management follow up system; monitor the quality of OIG audit reports; and coordinate activities with the Assistant Inspector General (AIG) for Investigations. The staff also provides an integrated approach to fraud prevention and detection and management improvement in USDA programs and operations; reviews Department legislation and regulations through the involvement and cooperation of the Department's principal officers and program managers; coordinates analyses and reports on the conduct of fraud

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vulnerability assessments; and recommends policies and provides technical assistance for investigative and audit operations. The Auditing headquarters office consists of the immediate office of the AIG/A and four staff divisions.

(3) The Assistant Inspector General for Investigations (AIG/I) carries out the OIG's domestic and foreign investigative operations through a headquarters office and the seven regional offices shown in § 2610.3(b). Investigations officials conduct operational and intelligence liaison on investigative matters with the FBI, Secret Service, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Interpol, and other Federal and State law enforcement organizations; determine the need for investigative action; conduct investigations; prepare factual reports of investigative findings; refer reports for appropriate administrative or legal action; followup on agency actions to assure that OIG investigative reports have been properly acted upon; monitor the quality of investigative reports; and coordinate activities with the AIG/A. The staff also conducts special investigations of major programs, operations, and high level officials; provides for the protection of the Secretary and Deputy Secretary; receives and processes employee complaints concerning possible violations of laws, rules, regulations or mismanagement. The Investigations headquarters office consists of the immediate office of the AIG/I and three staff divisions.

§ 2610.3 Regional organization.

(a) Each Regional Inspector General for Audit (RIG/A) is responsible to the IG and to the AIG/A for supervising the performance of all OIG auditing activities relating to the Department's domestic and foreign programs and operations within an assigned geographic area. The addresses and telephone numbers of the six Audit Regional Offices and the territories served are as follows:

AUDIT REGION, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, AND TERRITORY

Northeast Region, ATTN: Suite 5D06, 4700 River Road, Unit 151, Riverdale, Maryland 20737-1237, (301) 734-8763; Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New

Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Virgin Islands, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Southeast Region, 401 W. Peachtree Street NW., Room 2328, Atlanta, Georgia 30365-3520, (404) 730-3210; Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Midwest Region, 111 N. Canal Street, Suite 1130, Chicago, Illinois 60606-7295, (312) 353-1352; Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Southwest Region, 101 South Main, Room 324, Temple, Texas 76501, (817) 774-1430; Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Great Plains Region, 9435 Holmes, Room 233, Kansas City, Missouri 64131, Mailing address: PO Box 293, Kansas City, Missouri 64141, (816) 926-7667; Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Utah.

Western Region, 600 Harrison Street, Suite 225, San Francisco, California 94107, (415) 744-2851; Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Territory of Guam, Trust Territories of the Pacific, and Washington.

(b) Each RIG/I is responsible to the IG and to the AIG/I for supervising the performance of all OIG investigative activities relating to the Department's domestic and foreign programs and operations within an assigned geographic area. The addresses and telephone numbers of the seven Investigations Regional Offices and the territories served are as follows:

INVESTIGATIONS REGION, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, AND TERRITORY

North Atlantic Region, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 1409, New York, New York 10278, (212) 264-8400; Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virgin Islands.

Northeast Region, ATTN: Suite 5D06, 4700 River Road, Unit 151, Riverdale, Maryland 20737-1237, (301) 734-8850; Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Southeast Region, 401 W. Peachtree Street NW., Room 2329, Atlanta, Georgia 30365-3520, (404) 730-2170; Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Midwest Region, 111 N. Canal Street, Suite 1130, Chicago, Illinois 60606-7295, (312) 353-1358; Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

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Southwest Region, 101 South Main, Room 311, Temple, Texas 76501, (817) 774-1351; Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Great Plains Region, 9435 Holmes, Room 210, Kansas City, Missouri 64131, Mailing address: PO Box 293, Kansas City, Missouri 64141, (816) 926-7606; Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Utah.

Western Region, 600 Harrison Street, Room 225, San Francisco, California 94107, (415) 744-2887; Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Territory of Guam, Trust Territories of the Pacific, and Washington.

§ 2610.4 Requests for service.

(a) Heads of USDA agencies will direct requests for audit or investigative service to the AIG/A, AIG/I, RIG/A, RIG/I, or to other OIG audit or investigation officials responsible for providing service of the type desired in the geographical area where service is desired.

(b) Agency officials or other employees may, at any time, direct to the personal attention of the IG any audit or investigation matter that warrants such attention.

(c) Other persons may address their communications regarding audit or investigative matters to: The Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ag Box 2301, Washington, DC 20250. Additionally, persons may call or write the hotline office at 202-690-1622, 1-800-424-9121, TDD 202-690-1202, or Office of Inspector General, PO Box 23399, Washington, DC 20026. Bribes involving USDA programs may be reported using the 24 hour bribery hotline number at 202 720-7257.

§ 2610.5 Delegations of authority.

(a) AIG's listed in § 2610.2; and RIG's listed in § 2610.3, are authorized to take whatever actions are necessary to carry out their assigned functions. This authority may be redelegated.

(b) The IG reserves the right to establish audit and investigation policies, program, procedures, and standards; to allocate appropriated funds; to determine audit and investigative jurisdiction; and to exercise any of the powers or functions or perform any of the duties referenced in the above delegation.

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PART 2620—AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC

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2620.1 General statement.

2620.2 Public inspection and copying.

2620.3 Requests.

2620.4 Denials.

2620.5 Appeals.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301 and 552; 5 U.S.C. App.

SOURCE: 60 FR 52842, Oct. 11, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

§ 2620.1 General statement.

This part is issued in accordance with, and subject to, the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture § 1.1 through § 1.23 (and appendix A of subpart A of part 1) of this title, implementing the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, and governs the availability of records of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to the public upon request.

§ 2620.2 Public inspection and copying.

5 U.S.C. 522(a)(2) requires that certain materials be made available for public inspection and copying, and that a current index of these materials be published quarterly or otherwise made available. OIG does not maintain any materials within the scope of these requirements.

§ 2620.3 Requests.

(a) Requests for OIG records shall be in writing in accordance with § 1.6(a) of this title and addressed to the Assistant Inspector General for Policy Development and Resources Management (AIG/PD&RM), Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ag Box 2310, Washington, DC 20250. The above official is hereby delegated authority to make determinations regarding such requests in accordance with § 1.3(a)(3) of this title.

(b) Requests should be reasonably specific in identifying the record requested and should include the name, address, and telephone number of the requester.

(c) Available records may be inspected and copied in the office of the AIG/PD&RM, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. local time on regular working days or may be obtained by mail. Copies will